



WHEC UPDATE

A Newsletter of worldwide activity of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

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Lessons From The Field

On 24th October 2008 **WomensHealthSection.com** turns 6 – a road to safe motherhood and health development. It is serving with pride in 208 countries and territories. The demand for health-for-all is one of the defining movements of 21st century. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) is leading the way in this movement, as well as redefining Continuing Medical Education. Achieving universal access to reproductive health is our target. The significance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) lies in the linkages between them. They are mutually reinforcing framework to improve overall human development. The MDGs are framed as a compact, which recognizes the contribution that developed countries can make through trade, development assistance, debt relief, access to essential medicines and technology transfer. The eight MDGs build on agreements made at United Nations conferences in the 1990s and represent commitments to reduce poverty and hunger, and to tackle ill-health, gender inequality, lack of education, lack of access to clean water and environment degradation. Three out of eight goals, eight of the 16 targets and 18 of the 48 indicators relate directly to health. Health is also an important contributor to several other goals. Improvements in health are essential if progress is to be made with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These Goals provide a vision of development in which health and education are squarely at the center. Since their adoption, no-one has been able to say that development is just about economic growth. We therefore have to understand the MDGs as a form of shorthand for some of the most important outcomes that development should achieve: fewer women dying in childbirth; more children surviving in the early years of life; dealing with the catastrophe of HIV/AIDS; making sure people have access to life-saving drugs; better health – in all its forms – making a major contribution to the reduction of poverty.

Creating cultures that care is our mission. More resources are needed, but money is only part of the picture. Current health spending in most low-income countries is insufficient for the achievement of the health MDGs. Progress will equally depend on getting policies right; making the institutions that implement them function effectively; building health systems that work well and treat people fairly; and ensuring there are enough staff in post to do all the work. Faster progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is possible; it is a matter of political choice in both the developed and developing world. None of these MDGs will be achieved without a truly global partnership...let me appeal to you to incorporate the MDGs as an explicit priority in the programs and policies of your Governments and institutions. The MDGs do not say everything that needs to be said about health and development. They say nothing about the importance of effective health systems which are essential to the achievement of all health goals, about reproductive health or non-communicable diseases. But it is a very good start. We can dramatically transform the lives of millions of the world's poorest people. Our focus is on improving equity of access to *health* and not merely to *health care* as the basis for public health policy for future. Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.

Welcome to the WHEC Global Health Line!

Health and The Millennium Development Goals

Rita Luthra, MD

Your Questions, Our Reply:

Internet Governance? What are we talking about?

Mapping International Internet Governance: Throughout the history of electronic communication networks, major technological innovations have led to the development of international governance arrangements with almost predictable regularity. The fact that these debates have taken place against the backdrop of a broader discussion about the effects of globalization, and the roles of the private sector and civil society in international decision making, have led some to see the Internet as the standard bearer for a much broader governance reform agenda, both positively and negatively. In the English language, “governance” is an old term which, like “civil society”, fell into disuse, but which has been revived, given new meaning, and attained widespread currency. Like “government” and “governor”, it is derived from the Latin word “gubernate” – the action of steering a ship. A popular definition reflects these ancient Roman roots by defining governance as “steering, not rowing”. This definition captures an essential feature of the current concept of “governance”. In this concept, there is a distinction between people, structures, and processes that do the “rowing” in any human system – and the people, structures and processes that establish general goals for the system and guide the “rowers” toward these goals, setting the tempo and changing the course as necessary. Although Internet Governance in some senses is a “wedge issue”, progress will depend on not overburdening an already difficult problem.

The Internet is a decentralized network of networks. The mission of WHEC Global Health Line Network is to help identify ways to harness the potential for economic and social development, by promoting partnerships of public, private, non-profit and civil society stakeholders to advance the global effort to bridge the digital divide. There are a number of different ways in which systems can be governed or steered. These can be conceived as ranging on a continuum from “hard” forms of governance such as laws and regulations to “softer” forms such as standards, policy coordination and voluntary cooperation. In any society, no matter how free, almost every activity is subjected to multiple sources of “hard” governance in the form of generally applicable laws and regulations, as well as to multiple sources of “soft” forms of social control that apply specifically to these activities and are tailored to their particular feature. The global debate on Internet Governance is in a luminal state. The development of Internet-Governance-related policies and strategies at the national and international levels could help advance the global dialogue and engage in collective problem solving. However, Internet Governance like any form of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) governance, is not an end in itself, but is undertaken to achieve more general economic and social goals.

The vision of constructing Internet Governance arrangements that are multilateral, transparent and democratic with the full involvement of all stakeholders is a noble challenge. I am optimistic; we can develop the infrastructure for: *Intelligent Internet*.

About NGO Association with the UN:

The Millennium Declaration, signed by world’s leaders of 189 countries in 2000, established 2015 as the deadline for achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The majority of MDG targets has a baseline of 1990, and is set to monitor achievements over the period 1990-2015.

Millennium Development Goal (MDG): Africa and the Millennium Development Goals 2007 update (Continued)

CHILD MORTALITY: Under-five mortality rates dropped from 185 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 166 per 1,000 in 2005 – hardly making a dent in the objective of a two-thirds reduction by 2015, and now at twice the rate in the developing world as a whole. One positive step: due to extensive

vaccination campaigns, measles cases and deaths on the sub-continent fell by nearly 75 per cent between 1999 and 2005.

MATERNAL HEALTH: Maternal health remains a regional and global scandal, with the odds that a sub-Saharan African woman will die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth during her life at 1 in 16, compared to 1 in 3,800 in the developed world.

AIDS & OTHER DISEASES: The number of people dying from AIDS continues to mount, reaching 2 million in 2006. Although prevalence rates have leveled off, the number of new cases, especially among women, as well as the number of people with advanced HIV infection continues to grow and is rising faster than treatment services are being scaled up. There is no evidence that the very high rate of new TB cases in sub-Saharan Africa is starting to level off.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: Only 42 per cent of people in rural areas had access to clean water, according to the latest 2004 data, and 63 per cent of the entire population lacked access to basic sanitation facilities—down only barely from 68 per cent in 1990, and far from the target of cutting this proportion in half by 2015. The effects of climate change, which are already being felt, will only make achievement of the MDGs on the subcontinent more difficult. According to projections by the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change between 75 and 250 million people will be exposed to an increase of water stress. Without adequate preparation, the impact could be devastating to rural economies and the livelihoods of the poor.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: While it is well known that the continent is the only region in the world where the number of extreme poor has risen over the past fifteen years, it may be less well known that African countries have experienced major improvements in key development fundamentals. Fuelled by improved economic policies and rising commodity prices, annual economic growth has averaged close to 6 per cent for the last three years. This growth has been spread fairly evenly among countries, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) now envisages a short-term trend rate moving toward 7 per cent per year. There is a downward trend in the number of civil conflicts. Export receipts have improved current-account balances in many countries, and recently granted debt relief has reduced macroeconomic imbalances in the poorest nations. African enterprises are generating stronger domestic investment and productivity gains. Many governments in the region have continued to become more transparent, less corrupt and more democratic. Yet this progress remains fragile, as it is driven in large measure by a boom in commodity prices. African countries continue to depend on few primary commodities for export and lack the essential public investments in agriculture; health, education and infrastructure that are needed to strengthen capacity for production and trade, sustain high growth rates and create employment.

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO):

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013 AND PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET 2008-2009: This commitment to “attaining results for health” is reflected throughout the proposed Medium-term strategic plan for 2008–2013, which provides the strategic direction for the Organization for the six-year period. This direction is based on the global health agenda and core functions identified in the Eleventh General Program of Work. I view our global health agenda as especially important, as it brings cohesion to the work of our many partners implementing programs within countries. The six areas for results that I emphasized in my acceptance speech are clearly reflected in this proposed strategic plan: health development, health security, capacity, evidence, partnership, and performance. Within the strategic objectives, several specific areas important to WHO during the coming six-year period are reflected as priorities in the plan. These respond both to emerging health concerns and to the priorities of Member States, as expressed in recent resolutions adopted by the Health Assembly. These areas include:

- implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) in order to respond rapidly to public health emergencies of international concern (including those caused by outbreaks of emerging and epidemic-prone diseases), building on eradication of poliomyelitis to develop an effective surveillance and response infrastructure addressing the epidemic of

- chronic non-communicable diseases, with an emphasis on measures to reduce risk factors such as tobacco consumption, improper diet, and physical inactivity reducing maternal mortality, by scaling up activities aimed at universal access to, and coverage with, effective interventions, and strengthening health services
- improving health systems, focusing on human resources, financing and health information
 - improving performance and building and managing partnerships to achieve the best results in countries.

... I want us to be judged by the impact we have on the health of the people of Africa, and the health of women. All regions, all countries, all people are equally important. This is a health organization for the whole world. Our work must touch on the lives of everyone, everywhere. But we must focus our attention on the people in greatest need.

... Our commitment to results is only relevant if we can demonstrate an impact in these two populations.

The fact that two thirds of the program budget continues to be financed by voluntary contributions reflects the confidence and commitment of Member States and other partners. I sincerely appreciate this support and recognize its importance as we strive to attain results for health. I am pleased to submit this Medium-term strategic plan 2008–2013 and Proposed program budget 2008–2009, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

Details: http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/AMTSP-PPB/a-mtsp_1en.pdf

Bulletin of the World Health Organization; Volume 86, Number 10, October 2008, 737-816 [Table of contents](#)

Collaboration with UN University (UNU):

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research) *Expert Series on Health Economics*:

e-development? Development and the New Economy

The rise of the new economy is undeniable. Yet its impact on the development process is still to be fully understood. Investment in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) itself is not sufficient to ensure long term improvements in social well-being but requires other factors that result in an enabling environment in which progress can be achieved. Policymakers must guard against a 'technology fundamentalism', which is the idea, that ICT investment is the only need of developing countries. This policy brief summarizes the results of three related UNU-WIDER projects on ICT and economic growth directed by Professor Matti Pohjola. These projects explored the impact of the new economy on development strategies and highlighted policies necessary to achieve knowledge-intensive development, or as are now termed, e-development. The full extent of how the new economy will impact on rich and poor countries is still unknown, but this policy brief provides a timely contribution to the discussion of what governments must do to maximize its possible benefits. It will be of interest to those concerned with development and with the policies required to narrow the gap between the rich and poor in the coming years.

The future of different nations will depend on how they respond to the new economy. Current development policies remain focused on traditional industrialization of developing economies within a global market. Yet, the new economy provides a fundamentally different global environment in which progress will occur. This environment is different from the context of recent decades and far removed from that in which the developed and even the East Asian tiger economies achieved their development. A historical blueprint for development no longer exists and new and distinctive development strategies that take account of both specific circumstances of countries and new global realities must be designed. There is great hope that e-development within the new economy will provide a shortcut to prosperity by allowing developing countries to

bypass certain traditional phases of development in the conventional, long-lasting and belt tightening process of structural change from agrarian to industrial and, ultimately, to knowledge-based service economies. Whether such hope will be realized though is still unsure.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Matthew Clarke; Project: Information Technology and Global Economic Development.

Sponsor: UNU-WIDER gratefully acknowledges the financial contribution to the research by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and SITRA (Finnish National Fund for Research Development).

(Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page of WomensHealthSection.com)

Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

The first avenue by which non-governmental organizations took a role in formal UN deliberations was through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). 41 NGOs were granted consultative status by the council in 1946; by 1992 more than 700 NGOs had attained consultative status and the number has been steadily increasing ever since to 3,052 organizations today. Article 71 of the UN Charter opened the door providing for suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations. The consultative relationship with ECOSOC is governed today by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, which outlines the eligibility requirements for consultative status, rights and obligations of NGOs in consultative status, procedures for the withdrawal or suspension of consultative status, the role and functions of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, and the responsibilities of the UN Secretariat in supporting the consultative relationship. Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States. Members of the Committee are Angola, Burundi, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, Guinea, India, Israel, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

Who is Eligible?

Consultative relationships may be established with international, regional, sub regional and national non-governmental, non-profit public or voluntary organizations. NGOs affiliated to an international organization already in status may be admitted provided that they can demonstrate that their programme of work is of direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations. In the case of national organizations consultation with the Member State concerned is required. To be eligible for consultative status, an NGO must have been in existence (officially registered with the appropriate government authorities as an NGO/non-profit) for at least two years, must have an established headquarters, a democratically adopted constitution, authority to speak for its members, a representative structure, appropriate mechanisms of accountability and democratic and transparent decision-making processes. The basic resources of the organization must be derived in the main part from contributions of the national affiliates or other components or from individual members. Organizations established by governments or intergovernmental agreements are not considered NGOs.

General, Special and Roster status: There are three categories of status: General consultative status, Special consultative status and Roster status.

General consultative status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach.

Special consultative status is granted to NGOs which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC. These NGOs tend to be smaller and more recently established. NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC may designate persons to represent them at offices of the United Nations.

Designations must be made only by the Chief Administrative Officer or highest elected officers of the Organization.

Organizations that apply for consultative status but do not fit in any of the other categories are usually included in the Roster. These NGOs tend to have a rather narrow and/or technical focus. NGOs that have formal status with other UN bodies or specialized agencies (FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO and others); can be included on the ECOSOC Roster. The roster lists NGOs that ECOSOC or the UN Secretary-General considers can make "occasional and useful contributions to the work of the Council or its subsidiary bodies."

Participation in International Conferences:

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, special consultative status and on the Roster, that express their wish to attend the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations and the meetings of the preparatory bodies of the said conferences shall as a rule be accredited for participation. Other non-governmental organizations wishing to be accredited may apply to the secretariat of the conference for this purpose.

United Nations Charter:

*We the Peoples of the United Nations United for a Better World
(Continued)*

CHAPTER XIV

■THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ■

Article 92

The International Court of Justice shall be the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It shall function in accordance with the annexed Statute, which is based upon the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice and forms an integral part of the present Charter.

Article 93

1. All Members of the United Nations are ipso facto parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.
2. A state which is not a Member of the United Nations may become a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice on conditions to be determined in each case by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

Article 94

1. Each Member of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in any case to which it is a party.
2. If any party to a case fails to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgment rendered by the Court, the other party may have recourse to the Security Council, which may, if it deems necessary, make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment.

Article 95

Nothing in the present Charter shall prevent Members of the United Nations from entrusting the solution of their differences to other tribunals by virtue of agreements already in existence or which may be concluded in the future.

Article 96

1. The General Assembly or the Security Council may request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question.
2. Other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, which may at any time be so authorized by the General Assembly, may also request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.

CHAPTER XV
■THE SECRETARIAT ■

Article 97

The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary-General and such staff as the Organization may require. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. He shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization.

Article 98

The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the General Assembly, of the Security Council, of the Economic and Social Council, and of the Trusteeship Council, and shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him by these organs. The Secretary-General shall make an annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization.

Article 99

The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 100

1. In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization.
2. Each Member of the United Nations undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Article 101

1. The staff shall be appointed by the Secretary-General under regulations established by the General Assembly.
2. Appropriate staffs shall be permanently assigned to the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, and, as required, to other organs of the United Nations. These staffs shall form a part of the Secretariat.
3. The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

To be continued...

Top Two-Articles Accessed in September 2008:

1. Health Care: Who Should Pay For What?
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/heal/heal014.php3>
WHEC Publications. Special thanks to WHO, World Bank, IMF for the contributions.
2. Cervical Glandular Carcinoma: Early Detection & Prevention;
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gyno/gyno017.php3>
WHEC Publications. Special thanks to Dr. Bradley J. Monk, Associate Professor and Director of Research, Division of Gynecology Oncology, University of California Irvine Medical Center, California (USA) for his priceless assistance in developing series on Cervical Cancer Prevention.

From Editor's Desk:

Opening of the 63rd General Assembly Session

The [63rd session of the UN General Assembly](#) Headquarters in New York.

The annual General Debate begins on 23 September and concludes on 1 October, where over 130 Heads of State or Heads of Government will participate. In addition, a series of High-level Meetings are scheduled to take place around the Debate. On 22 September the Assembly will hold a High-level Meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward." A High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (convened jointly by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly) will take place on 25 September. On 2 and 3 October, the Assembly will hold High-level plenary meetings for a midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action—a plan, negotiated in 2003, spelling out specific measures to help landlocked and transit developing countries overcome their geographical handicap. Other highlights of the 63rd Session include the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus will take place from 29 November to 2 December in Doha, Qatar and a commemorative plenary meeting on 10 December, devoted to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some of the key issues that the General Assembly will address relate to democratizing the UN, climate change, financing for development, implementing counter terrorism strategy, human security, and achieving the goals of the United Nations decade: "Water for Life" (2005-2015). For further information please see the [provisional agenda](#) of the 63rd session of the General Assembly.

[H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, M.M.](#), was elected [President of the 63rd session](#) of the United Nations General Assembly on 4 June 2008. A veteran statesman, politician, community leader and priest, he is currently a Minister and Senior Adviser on Foreign Affairs to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of the Republic of Nicaragua. Father d'Escoto is deeply committed to the principles of active nonviolence, solidarity and social Justice. These values along with a deep sense of ethics have formed the basis of his political life. Born in Los Angeles (in 1933), Miguel d'Escoto spent his childhood years in Nicaragua, but returned to the United States in 1947 to study. He entered the Catholic seminary at Maryknoll (New York) in 1953, and in 1961 was ordained a priest. In 1962, he obtained a Master's of Science from Columbia University's School of Journalism (Pulitzer Institute). In his acceptance speech, H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann highlighted the importance of unity in order to build solidarity and bring effectiveness into the actions of the United Nations. He spoke of trying to reach "our common goals while respecting our most important and diverse national interests." For more information, please see the English translation of the [acceptance speech](#).

Related Documents:

- ▶ [Background Information on the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly](#)
- ▶ [Provisional Agenda of the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly](#)
- ▶ [H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, M.M.- Biographical Note](#)
- ▶ [H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, M.M.- Acceptance Speech](#)
- ▶ [Past Presidents of the UN General Assembly](#)

Special Thanks:

WHEC expresses gratitude to Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, United Nations for his friendship and support to our mission. Planning and developing projects and programs to improve women's health and status of local, national, and international importance is indeed a privilege with the United Nations, for us all at the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC). We look forward to a productive collaboration.

Words of Wisdom:

The glories of our blood and state,
Are shadows, not substantial things;
There is no armor against fate;
Death lays his icy hand on kings;
Scepter and crown must tumble down,
And in the dust be equal made
With poor crooked scythe and spade.
Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in their dust.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed
on the latest UN and NGO activities*